

promoted inter-alia conveying messages for use of safe drinking water and maintenance of environmental sanitation.

[English]

Declaration of Backward Area

86. SHRI CHAMAN LAL GUPTA: Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) whether Jammu and Kashmir areas which are close to the line of control have been declared as backward and have been granted certain facilities;

(b) if so, the reasons for which border areas of Kathua and Jammu districts have been deprived of such facilities; and

(c) the steps proposed to be taken by the Government to remedy the situation?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PERSONNEL, PUBLIC GRIEVANCES AND PENSIONS AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS (SHRI S.R. BALASUBRAMONIYAN): (a) Yes, Sir. In the year 1981, the Government of Jammu & Kashmir had declared some areas, including the areas within 8 kms from the Line of Actual Control, as socially and educationally backward on the recommendations of the Anand Committee. Subsequently in the year 1998, some more left out villages were also declared socially and educationally backward, based on the recommendations of the concerned Deputy Commissioners. Reservations in Government services and in the admission in professional institutions are provided to these areas.

(b) The Anand Committee had set the following factors as criteria for declaring the areas as socially and educationally backward:-

- (1) Inaccessibility of the area;
- (2) Climatic conditions;
- (3) Geographical position/topography of the areas;
- (4) Low rate of literacy
- (5) Lack of medical facilities; and
- (6) Lack of basic necessities of life, like drinking water, electricity, irrigation facilities, maternity and child welfare clinics etc.

The list of backward areas include 103 villages of Kathua district and 127 villages of Jammu district.

(c) All those villages including those near the Line of Actual Control, which fulfil the above criteria were included in the list of backward areas. The State Government has no proposal, at present, for declaring any more villages as socially and educationally backward.

Plots/Flats to SC/ST

87. SHRI SIBU SOREN: Will the Minister of URBAN AFFAIRS and EMPLOYMENT be pleased to state:

(a) the details of residential flats, shops and plots allotted to Scheduled Castes and Scheduled Tribes by the Delhi Development Authority during the last three years, year-wise and category-wise; and

(b) the details of special housing scheme launched by D.D.A. exclusively for SC/ST applicants, if any?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF URBAN AFFAIRS AND EMPLOYMENT (DR. U. VENKATESWARLU): (a) Following number of flats, plots and shops have been allotted by Delhi Development Authority during the last three years; year-wise and category-wise details are as under:-

	1994-95	1995-96	1996-97
Flats:			
SFS	155	138	417
MIG	-	466	1200
LIG	147	651	450
Janata	1522	44	917
EWS	407	-	2102
Shops:			
	191	255	-

Plots: No, separate record of allotment of plots year-wise is available. However all the persons registered under SC/ST category have been allotted plots and their number is 4994.

(b) Special housing scheme was launched in the year 1989 called the Ambedkar Awas Yojana exclusively for SC/ST applicants.

Haj Pilgrimage

88. SHRI E. AHAMED: Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government have formulated a fresh scheme for Haj Pilgrimage in the light of experience of irresponsible behaviour of private tour operators towards Hajis in the context of Mina fire tragedy; and

(b) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS (SHRI SALIM IQBAL SHERVANI): (a) and (b) Several measures to regulate the activities of private tour operators, in relation to Haj pilgrimage, are Under the active consideration of the Government in the light of the Mina fire incident.